# ORDERS UNDER ACT III OF 1897

## EPIDEMIC DISEASES

### PRESCRIBING THE CONDITIONS SUBJECT TO WHICH THE *Haj* WILL BE OPEN TO ANY RESIDENT IN INDIA

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In order to promote the convenience of pilgrims and to relieve the present congestion of pilgrim traffic in Bombay the Governor General in Council has decided that for the ensuing pilgrimage and until further orders the port of Karachi shall be open in addition to the port of Bombay to pilgrim traffic to the Hedjaz.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2, Sub-section (1), of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897 (III of 1897), and in supersession of the orders contained in the Home Department Notification No. 1606, dated 13th July 1908, the Governor General in Council is accordingly pleased to direct that, until further orders, the *Haj* will be open to any resident in India, subject to the conditions—

(1) that no person shall be permitted to embark with the object of making a pilgrimage to Mecca except at the ports of Bombay and Karachi in the Bombay Presidency ;

(2) that before the pilgrims embark, the ships chartered for Jedda shall be thoroughly cleansed and freed from rats by means of the Clayton process under the personal direction of the Port Health Officer ;

(3) that ample hospital accommodation shall be provided on board ;

(4) that before embarkation pilgrims shall be medically inspected and their clothes and baggage disinfected as in the case of third class passengers on ordinary steamers ;

(5) that ships shall undergo further inspection at Aden ; and

(6) that if plague is found to be present in a pilgrim vessel arriving at Aden, telegraphic information shall be sent to Perim where the vessel shall be treated as an infected ship under article 21 (3) of the Paris Convention of 1903 and the measures prescribed in that article shall be strictly carried out, a similar treatment being accorded to vessels on which plague is first discovered between Aden and Perim.

2. A fully equipped plague observation station for pilgrims will be established at Perim by the Government of Bombay at the commencement of each pilgrim season capable of receiving an entire ship load of pilgrims from a plague infected vessel for treatment under article 21 of the Paris Convention of 1903.